

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

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FOL RPT USICA JOHANNESBURG 1382 SENT ACTION USINFOR
INFO SECSTATE USUN PRETORIA CAPE TOWN DURBAN JUN 02, 1978.

QUOTE: UNCLAS USICA/JOHANNESBURG 1382

USICA FOR IOP/M, IAA, IBS

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SUMMARY: FOLLOWING THREE ITEMS OF INTEREST APPEARED
IN JOHANNESBURG NEWSPAPERS JUNE 2. THE BLACK-ORIENTED
"POST" ADDRESSED WARNING TO SAG THAT DOMESTIC POLICIES
MAY CAUSE BLACKS "TO LOOK TO SOCIALISM MORE AND MORE
FOR REDRESS." AN AFRIKAANS (PRO-SAG) DAILY WARNED SOWETO
LEADER MOTLANA ON HIS VIEWS RE "STABILITY AND CHANGE",
WHILE ANOTHER AFRIKAANS PAPER WARNED LESOTHO AGAINST ANY
"CUBAN CONNECTION". END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL IN BLACK DAILY "POST"
(EDITED BY PERCY QOBOZA): "THE EXPANSIONIST POLICIES OF
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THE SOVIET UNION ARE CONTINUING TO GIVE SERIOUS CONCERN
IN WESTERN CIRCLES AS EVIDENCED BY THE TOUGH WARNINGS OF
THE U.S. AND ITS NATO ALLIES RECENTLY.

FOR RSA THE DANGERS ARE THERE FOR EVERYONE TO SEE AND IT IS
NO SECRET THAT THIS COUNTRY COULD WELL BECOME THE TOP
PRIZE IN THE IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE THAT IS PRESENTLY

RAGING THROUGHOUT THE CONTINENT.

YET WE AS A NATION WOULD, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM MARXIST INFLUENCES, IF ONLY WE PAID OUR DUES IN TERMS OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND HUMAN VALUES. THAT OUR RULERS ARE MEN WHO ARE NOW INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT THE FUTURE IS SOMETHING THAT IS COMING OUT LOUD AND CLEAR.

WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT THE POLICIES OF THE SAG MAKE MARXISM AN ATTRACTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO PEOPLE WHO ARE DAILY HUMILIATED BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF THEIR SKINS.

WE HAVE WARNED THAT UNLESS THE CREDIBILITY OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM CAN BE RESTORED SO OUR PEOPLE CAN OBTAIN AND ENJOY THEIR SHARE OF THE WEALTH AND OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY OUR COUNTRY, THEN THEY WILL BEGIN TO LOOK TO SOCIALISM MORE AND MORE FOR REDRESS.

WHAT IS MORE, WE HAVE POINTED OUT THE DANGERS THAT LIE IN ARBITRARY ACTION BEING TAKEN AGAINST PEOPLE OF MODERATE, GOOD INTENTIONS, AND THEREBY IDENTIFYING SUCH PEOPLE WITH COMMUNISM. THIS ONLY HELPS CREATE A FAVORABLE IMAGE OF COMMUNISM AND ITS IDEOLOGY IN THE MINDS OF UNSOPHISTICATED PEOPLE.
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THE TYPE OF SYSTEM OF GOVT WE HAVE HERE IS THE CENTRAL ISSUE AND CHANGES MUST NECESSARILY COME IF WE ARE TO SAVE RSA. WE HAVEN'T GOT THAT MUCH TIME, EITHER."

2. "DIE TRANSVALER" TAXED DR. NTHATO MOTLANA, CHAIRMAN OF SOWETO'S COMMITTEE OF TEN, ON HIS VIEWS OF "STABILITY AND CHANGE" AS EXPRESSED IN AN ADDRESS TO A MEETING OF THE PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY. "DR MOTLANA STEPPED ON DANGEROUS GROUND....IN HIS CLARIFICATION TO THIS NEWSPAPER YESTERDAY, HE SAID HE NEVER CALLED FOR 'DESTABILIZATION' IN RSA, NOR HAD HE ADVOCATED DISINVESTMENT. HE SAID THAT A DEGREE OF INSTABILITY -- WHICH HE BELIEVES NOW PREVAILS -- CAN ACCELERATE THE PACE OF CHANGE BECAUSE IT SOWS APPREHENSION AMONG THE RULING NATIONALISTS, MAKING THEM MORE AMENABLE TO NEGOTIATION THAN THEY WOULD BE IN A TOTALLY STABLE SITUATION. IF THIS IS IN FACT HIS VIEW, THEN WE MUST REJECT IT. THE AFRIKANER AND THE SAG HAVE ALREADY DEMONSTRATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TALK MEANINGFULLY WITH BLACK LEADERS. DIALOGUE

WILL BE SENT BACK IF THEIR BONA FIDES ARE CAST INTO
DOUBT."

3. "BEELD" CARRIED EDITORIAL HEADED "WATCH IT,
LESOTHO". PAPER SAID LESOTHO "SHOULD CONSIDER
CAREFULLY BEFORE ENGAGING IN DIPLOMATIC OR OTHER TIES
WITH CUBA. HOWEVER PRETTILY THEY TRY TO EXPLAIN IT,
LESOTHO SHOULD KNOW THE CUBANS DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO
GOOD NEIGHBORLINESS IN AFRICA. WE SPELL IT OUT
FOR LESOTHO: ANY CUBAN MISSION IN MASERU WOULD
BECOME A FOCAL POINT FOR ANTI-RSA SUBVERSIVES....
LESOTHO SHOULD THINK ABOUT THIS BEFORE IT IS TOO
LATE. HUGHES
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER
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